

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01513 161508Z

54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 ACDA-10 SAM-01 INRE-00

SSM-05 SAB-01 /092 W

----- 031700

O R 161448Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6757

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1513

E.O. 1162: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: MARCH 16 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING OF LEBANESE
EVENTS

1. SYRIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION CONTINUED TO WITHHOLD
COMMENT ON EVENTS IN LEBANON BUT AFTERNOON NEWS REPORTED
STATE OF ALERT OF ISRAELI TROOPS ON LEBANESE BORDER.

2. NEWSPAPER TISHRIIN REPORTED DENIAL BY SAIQA SPOKESMAN
HANNA BATHISH OF STORY CLAIMING ZUHAYR MUHSIN HAD
INDICATED THAT ANY ATTACK ON BAABDA PALACE WOULD BE
DETERRED. BATHISH STATED THAT MUHSIN HAD MADE NO SUCH
REMARK.

3. PRESS REPORTED THAT KHADDAM AND ASAD HAD MET
SEPARATELY WITH IMAM MUSA SADR MARCH 15.

4. PRESS CONTINUED PROVIDE FACTURAL COVERAGE OF LEBANESE
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CRISIS. AL-BAATH HEADLINED, "CONTINUATION OF

AMBIGUOUS SITUATION IN LEBANON." REPORTS OF
FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION AS WELL AS DENIAL BY PRO-FRANGIE
RADIO STATION AND OF AHDAB'S PLACING LEBANESE MILITARY
ON ALERT FOLLOWED BY HIS DECISION TO HALT MILITARY
ACTION, ALL UNDERLINED PREVAILING CONFUSION. PRESS
NOTED AGREEMENT BETWEEN AHDAB AND AHMAD AL-KHATIB
TO UNIFY FORCES, AND RESULTING MARCH OF MILITARY UNITS
ALLEGEDLY LOYAL TO KHATIB ON BEIRUT; REPORTS CLAIMED
KHATIB'S TROOPS HAD HALTED AT ALEY AND KHALDEH, AND THAT
ARMY POST AT DAHR AL-BAYDAR HAD JOINED FORCES WITH
KHATIB. CHAMOUN PURPORTEDLY MEDIATING BETWEEN PRESIDENCY
AND MILITARY. ON POLITICAL FRONT, PRESS CITED STATEMENT
BY MARONITE PATRIARCH KHREISH APPEALING FOR UNITY AND
RESUMPTION OF SYRIAN MEDIATION.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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